

named the 2005 Labor Leader of the Year. Art is currently the Secretary-Treasurer and Principal Executive Officer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 36, which represents Building Material, Construction, Industrial, Professional and Technical Employees.

Art is a native San Diegan and graduated from Chula Vista High School in 1975. Art also attended San Diego City College where he completed the Business and Labor Studies Program.

Art began his career working at Nabisco Company for Teamsters Local 316 in Syracuse, New York in May of 1976. In December 1977, he transferred to Local 36 and began driving for Oberg Construction and later at Bechtel Power Corporation at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and then moved to Hubbard Construction Company. In January 1990, Art began working at Teamsters Local 36 as an Organizer and Business Agent, and in May of 1995 was elected as the Recording Secretary on the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 36. In August of 2000, Art was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. He has since been re-elected twice.

Art serves as co-chair for San Diego County Teamsters Construction Trust for Health and Welfare, Pension, Vacation and Training Trusts, as well as Alternate Trustee of the San Diego County Teamsters Employers-Insurance Trust Fund. Art currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Industrial Relations Research Association (IRRA), and the Executive Board of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council as well as being the Treasurer and Executive Board member of The San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council. His newest position is with the San Diego County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Sub-committee.

Art also serves as the Recording Secretary of the California Teamsters Hispanic Caucus and the Executive Director of the National Teamsters Hispanic Caucus. Art is extremely proud of organizing the Annual Teamsters Hispanic Golf Tournament held at Torrey Pines every year. The event has raised over \$300,000 in scholarships for the sons and daughters of Teamsters. Since 2000, Art and Kris Hartnett have co-chaired the John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet which has raised over \$1.2 million.

Art currently resides in Carmel Mountain Ranch in San Diego. Art has 2 sons, Art Jr., 26, and Wesley, 24. Art Jr. currently works in Seattle, Washington and is a software engineer for Marchex Corporation. Wes works for the City of Santa Monica in the Engineering Department. Art's proudest moment was seeing Art Jr. graduate from Berkeley and Stanford and Wes from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Art enjoys golf, tennis and traveling.

I am proud to salute Art Cantu—Labor Leader of the Year.

CONGRATULATING RABBI AMIEL
WOHL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Amiel Wohl of New Rochelle

for being honored with the 2005 Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award.

The Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award is given annually to an individual who has sought to bring better understanding and harmonious relationships between various religious and ethnic groups. Rabbi Wohl has carried out this mission time and time again, including efforts to aid Christians suffering in Lebanon through his organization, People for Relief in Lebanon.

Rabbi Wohl has been committed to inter-faith communication since his arrival at Temple Israel of New Rochelle in 1973. Almost immediately, he coordinated the Interreligious Council, which brought together Catholic, Protestant and Jewish houses of worship and religious organizations. He has also been instrumental in other groups dedicated to inter-faith communication, including the Westchester Jewish Conference, which has sought to cross both denominational and municipal lines.

Rabbi Wohl has exemplified the ideals we seek in individuals of faith. From creating the Coalition for Mutual Respect in 1979 to traveling as far as Sacramento, California, to participate in inter-faith efforts, Rabbi Wohl has worked tirelessly to sustain the dialogue necessary to address conflicts among the different faiths in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Amiel Wohl on his accomplishments and in congratulating him on receiving this award.

BUSH POLICIES CONTRIBUTE TO HURRICANE CATASTROPHE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to outline how President Bush's policies contribute to the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe that took place in the Gulf Coast area of our nation. Just as in Iraq, the President's policies and unbelievable mismanagement on the domestic front have brought pain and suffering to American people.

Thousands of people may have been killed by Hurricane Katrina and many more could die in its aftermath because of the President's refusal to heed the calls of the governors for help in repairing the infrastructure in their states. In Louisiana, everybody knew that the levees that hold back flood waters were in disrepair. But instead of listening to the governors, the President cut funding for this purpose. Again and again vital domestic priorities have been sacrificed in order to pay for the occupation and rebuilding of Iraq, and these choices are now being revealed as harmful to our nation and people.

In addition to depriving the affecting areas of the funding that would have enabled them to prepare for Hurricane Katrina. The President's commitment to Iraq has impaired the response to the crisis. It is this commitment that has contributed to the slow response of federal troops who should have been on alert before the hurricane struck. Now, as bedlam reigns in New Orleans, 35 percent of Louisiana's and 37 percent of Mississippi's National Guard troops are in Iraq. The hurricane is clear evidence of how the war directly affects the domestic security of our country.

The President is destroying the fabric of America with a combined policy of war, tax cuts for the wealthy, and reductions in spending for domestic needs. These policies are supported by the Republican-dominated Congress. Even so, it was shocking to read reports that DENNIS HASTERT, the Speaker of the House, said that rebuilding New Orleans made no sense to him.

The President's policies have not only made us less secure, they have widened the chasm between the well-to-do and the poor. The people who couldn't get out of New Orleans to escape the storm were predominantly Black and poor. They stayed behind not because they wanted to risk the danger of the hurricane, but because they don't have cars or any other means of escape. No one is even talking about the poor in more rural areas—Blacks and Whites—who have not even been reached by rescue teams.

President Bush has tried to turn this tragedy into a political victory by flying in on a helicopter to examine the damage. But he is in store for more genuine outrage resulting from his failed policy in Iraq and the anger of the U.S. governors whose constituents are paying the price for the domestic policies of the "war president".

Please find below my letter to President Bush about the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I am writing to strongly urge you to use your power and leadership to provide the most aggressive possible response to the humanitarian crisis taking place in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The response so far has been unsatisfactory.

Food, water, medicine and emergency housing is in critical need. In addition, with the crisis seemingly affecting poor people most, arrangements should be made for emergency short term grants and loans to individuals, particularly those who head families and are taking care of children and the elderly.

Further, while we are all dismayed by television pictures of looters, we must not allow the focus of our humanitarian efforts to be diminished in any way by those actions. While criminal activity that threatens lives should not be tolerated, we must use maximum discretion in the use of force against individuals who may be motivated by poverty and hunger.

I have received many calls from constituents as well as Americans across the country, who believe that the victims of this catastrophe are receiving a lesser government response than would be provided for people of means. True or not, this perception will be aggravated if in coming days Americans do not see a more forceful and creative response to this crisis, whether it means using large military planes to bring in supplies, including temporary housing and the use of hotels or even cruise ships.

Mr. President, we must raise the level of response to this crisis, the greatest natural disaster in the nation's history, and it must be done immediately.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Member of Congress.